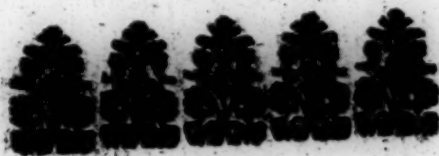


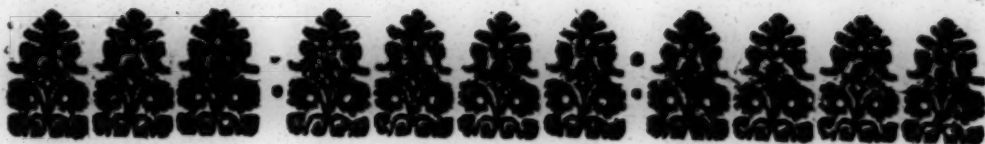
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A
LETTER
OF
ADVICE

To His
EXCELLENCIE
THE
Lord General Monck.



LONDON:
Printed in the Year 1660.

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Letter of Advice,

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My Lord,

THe Government of this Nation for this many years till of late, hath been mixt; partly Monarchical, partly Aristocratical, partly Democratical; in which the power also was fatally divided between King, Lords and Commons; whereby every state therein having distinct Aimes, and sometimes contrary ones, the Nation was impotent and weak, and wanted that harmony which is to be found in all the parts of a well-ordered Government. Yet under this Form, did *England* enjoy many good days, and great Liberties and Priviledges, and also met with not a few Oppressions. Those good days, I cannot but assigne (whether truly or no, I leave to your Lordships sounder Judgement) to the Democratical part of the Government, which was the constant Bulwark of English Liberties, and procured us those excellent Laws, which our Kings by their good wills otherwise would never have pass'd, and which yet (such is the blindness of many men) it is thought in most good Companies, we shall never be able to retain, without the Restauration of Monarchy. On the other side, the Exorbitancies and Oppressions of the late Government, the House of Commons in the Reigns of the two late Kings imputed to the Prerogative and Power of the King; which at last seemed so heavy and grievous to the People, that incited by the famous Long Parliament, they took up Arms against the King, to devett him of the Militia and Negative Vote, and some other Rights he claimed; of

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which an English King being stript, could be nothing but an Heroick Monarch; and in this sence they fought against Monarchy it self. In this War, the Royalists having lost no small quantity of their best Blood, were vanquished; and with the death of the late King, Monarchy it self for a time expired. And now this poor Nation not meeting with the felicity of being put immediately into the form of an equal Commonwealth, yet met with the best Expedient, being governed by the Members of Parliament that continued to sit after the Kings death; who through their wisdom, put the Nation in such a posture, as was a great refreshment to the harrassed Country; and through their Victories, more encreased our Territories, and were more successful in Arms, than all the Martial Princes that reigned in this Isle since the Conquest; approving themselves to the whole world, prudent, active and couragious States-men, and such as minded the interest of their Country. What good, what benefits, what felicities, might we not justly expect from these worthy Patriots, but this onely, namely, a good Government? And if this also is not expected, it is not because their good intentions to the Nation are at all questioned, but because they being too many, are not capable of performing it. But as they were too many to frame a good Government, so also they were, and still are, lookt on by wise men, as too few to make a popular Council. Being but a piece of a House of Commons, and necessitated to sit so many years, and to lay heavy Taxes and Burthens on the people, General Cromwel chusing his time, turned them out of Doors, and then called a Select Senate; which being packt by him, plaid his Game, at last resigning into his hands their power. He rejecting the Title of King, assumed to himself the Government, and a greater power than the English Kings formerly had, with the consent of a great part of the people; who, like affrighted Children, thought they should be safe, being hid under the Gown of this Great Man: Yet failed He in his Designe of erecting a durable Monarchy, who probably was able to have brought to pass any thing else in this Nation. With difficulty whilst he lived, he made a shift to keep himself in the Saddle, which his Son lost, presently after he was mounted. The Government then devolved into the hands of this present Parliament, who kept it not long before they were ejected by their Army. But now again this third time, are they risen from the dead, and restored through the Fidelity and Courage of your Excellency to the Exercise of their Trust.

Thus hath this poor Nation, within these few years, tryed all sorts
of

of Government, but an equal Commonwealth. We have experienced Monarchy in the old Line, and in the two Protectors, a Select Senate, an Oligarchy, the Government of an Army, (what not?) and have not as yet met with the ends of a good Government. Like a drowning man, this Nation hath caught hold of every thing that came in its way: but all things have proved but Seraws and helpless Twigs, that will not bear it above water.

And now, Sir, can anything else save us, but an equal Commonwealth? which in truth is no more then a Free and Full Parliament; but a Free and Full Parliament more truly elected, and better formed. You having been bred up in the best School of Experience, and being acquainted by History with ancient, and by your Travels and Employment with Modern Patterns of Government, out of which your exact Judgement will readily gather whatever is excellent or agreeable to this Nation; I shall not presume to discourse particularly of the framing of a Government to your Excellency, whom God (I hope) hath raised to be the Legislator of *England*. Onely give me leave to remember you, that it is the Judgement of the Oracle in the Politicks, grounded on notable Examples, Experience and Reason, and approved by Modern Writers, That the Legislator of a Nation must be but one man; who whatsoever extraordinary Actions he attempteth, or whatsoever power he assumeth to himself for the accomplishing of so worthy an end, as the settling of a Commonwealth will prove to be, deserves not onely excuse, but also honour. Consider, Sir, the present state of Affairs, and see if you are able to discern the Foot on which our present Commonwealth, so called, now stands, so narrow is it become: Or if it hath a Foot, is it not like that of *Nebuchad-nezzars* Image, part of Iron, and part of myrie Clay, which will not cleave together? It is already fractioned and crumbled into a small handfull, which though so small, is not well knit, but affords dayly cause of Jealousie; that like the little Church or Sect, which consisting, as *Barclay* relates, of but three men, came at last to be three several Churches, *Sic de angustâ Ecclesiâ, & trium hominum numero definita, tres quoq; Ecclesia nata sunt*; this Party will break, till they have not number enough to make up a Family. And do you think so weak a defence, as this Party is, will be able to repel the violent rage of that increased Multitude, which, like a mighty Sea, threatens to over-bear it? But Sir, Either you look on the Parliament not onely as willing, but also as able to settle us a good Government, or else you would never (I conceive) stand by it, and own it. If you look on the Parliament as
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able to perform it, we have new cause to esteem and love our Country after a more extraordinary manner, that can produce one or two hundred able and sufficient Legislators, when *Rome, Sparta, Athens,* or *Israel*, can boast of but one apiece.

But my Lord, The opinions of so many Men met together, must be various, and like a Multitude of Physicians, will indanger, if not destroy their languishing Patient. Let *England* therefore, my Lord, have but one Physician, and such an one as they esteem and love; which will facilitate its recovery. Your Excellencie, being esteemed and loved by your Country, crowned with Victory, celebrated for Martial Skill, for your undaunted Courage, your politick Conduct, and also having the Militia's of the three Nations at your beck, is that Physician that may make us as happy, or as miserable as you please.

But alas! whilst the Ship that we are all embarked in, is tossed in a high Sea, You, Sir, seem to sleep; notwithstanding the loud noise of all degrees of people, crying out to you, *Save us, or we perish*. Behold, what a Chaos *England* your native Country is become: be You to it, as *Moses* was to *Aaron*, instead of a God: reduce the jarring Elements into their places: set a new and beautiful Face on your deformed Country, and by bestowing on it an Equal Commonwealth, make it a Paradise wherein we may pass our days happily and cheerfully, blessing God for so worthy and heroick a person as you thereby will approve your self.

England, when an Equal Commonwealth, will be as wise as *Venice*, as rich as *Holland*, as vertuous and military as *Rome*. Believe it, Sir, no Legislator hitherto hath had so large Territories to settle a mighty and glorious Commonwealth on, as *England* affords. All manner of materials are made ready for erecting the most beautiful structure; there onely wants an able Workman. Can you see any Obstacle in your way? You your self have affirmed, that the Foundation of Monarchy is gone. And what Nobility is there to oppose you, but a Titular and Impotent one? What Army hath *England*, but what is at your command? Multitudes of people indeed, like Children, who must have a Babe to play with, and something to glitter in their Eyes, cry for a King; but when they shall once view the glory and splendour, and enjoy the felicity of an Equal Commonwealth, they will cry out with the ravished Apostle at the transfiguration of our blessed Saviour, *It is good for us to be here, let us build us Tabernacles*. At worst, (if this kind of Government prove so good for the Nation,

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as is promised) these fond people will not, nor indeed can they make any person more then a Prince in the Commonwealth.

VVhat should hinder you then from settling such a Government ? Or what Encouragements are wanting ? Do it, and you make this People glorious and blessed ; you will infinitely please them, and thereby attain to the highest step of Honour , becoming the Founder of a potent State, a Legislator , that shall be commended by a learned Age, the Father of your Country, and *Princeps perpetuus*. *Et quo sis alacrior ad tutandam remp. sic habeto : Omnibus qui patriam conservaverint adjuverint, auxerint, certum esse in Cælo, ac definitum locum, ubi beati ævo sempiterno fruantur.* Cic.de Som. Scip.

F I N I S.
